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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian.

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Wayside Gatherings.

A Great Speaker.

The Speaker of the House of Commons, the Right Hon. J. H. Whitley, when distributing prizes to the boys of the Mirfield Grammar School, made the following statement : " If I could encourage some boy or girl to urge successfully on the path of life, I would count my visit of more value than a hundred hours spent in the House of Commons." Those are wise words and one is led to say : it is a good thing to have a man like that at the head of what Macauley described as "The most peculiar audience in the world."

The Bishop of Liverpool.

In his presidental address at the Church Congress, Dr. David struck a very courageous note : he urged people to approach Christ through love and not fear. The old method of seeking God assumed the fear of hell ; now the old symbol had gone. The crude notion of physical punishment, with all the teaching about hell is happily giving place to something more reasonable. " For us," said Dr. David, " the old symbol is gone : we do not forget—let us not allow it to be forgotten—that the reality behind it remains God's stern, unbending hatred of evil, the immutable law that he who sins must suffer or what is worse, bring suffering to others."

A Layman's Point of View.

Speaking on the same evening Mr. Jerome referred to the subject in similar terms. Speaking on the life of Francis of Assisi, Mr. Jerome, said, " I suggest to our ecclesiastical authorities of all denominations that they should clear hell out of the way, and so enable the spirit of St. Francis to go to and fro about the earth unhampered, teaching the right of all things living to the common love of God."

Religion and Science.

" Jesus was the motive power in that Surgeon's brain and heart and hand who first laid ' the soft dews of kindly sleep ' on the eyelids of the patient going into the operating theatre, making anaesthesia wrap in blessed unconsciousness each tortured nerve : he also was the master of the master who gave us antiseptic surgery. They were Christian men." Rev. Hubert L. Simpson, M.A.

Is the Earth Shrinking ?

Careful Test now being made by Scientists.

A combined effort to detect and measure possible shrinkage of the earth's crust is being made by the chief observatories all over the world, in co-operation with the Royal Observatory at Greenwich.

Experiments began lately when wireless signals were sent out, from stations in America and on the Continent, at the rate of 61 rhythmic signals per minute. The times of reception of these signals will be exactly registered at the observatories concerned in the experiment, which include those at San Diego, Algiers, Shanghai, Paris, Washington, Berlin and in Australia.

" Any discrepancies in the time of reception of the signals," according to Sir Frank Dyson, the Astronomer-Royal, " will prove either that the longitude of the places concerned has been inaccurately determined, or that a shrinkage of the crust of the earth has modified the position of these places on the earth's surface. These revised longitudes will have to be very accurately determined, so that in a future experiment any discrepancy must be attributed to a change in the earth's crust."

Notes of the Month.

Letters from Correspondents.

It is a moot point, on which there may be a variety of opinion, whether it is desirable to open these columns to letters from members of our community of churches. What is calculated to stir the interest and to deepen the loyalty of our people is surely worth attempting. It may be well, in a tentative way, to make an experiment in this direction in deference to the frequently expressed wish that individual opinions should be allowed some expression in our church organ. It is obvious that only such communications can be inserted as are helpful and stimulating in their nature. It is not easy to gauge the trend of thought and the direction of opinion unless they are given public utterance. With the object of ascertaining the minds of our people on important subjects interesting to our people we are this month opening our pages to two letters that have been forwarded to us. It must be distinctly understood that the writers alone are responsible for the opinions expressed, and manuscripts must in all cases be accompanied by the names and addresses of the senders. For our part we adhere to the conviction that freely expressed opinions stated with a full sense of responsibility in a helpful, encouraging way will contribute to infuse life and energy into our people.

The Ulster Hall Service.

The Laymen's League have made all arrangements for the United Service to be held in the Ulster Hall, on November 21st, at 7 p.m. Full particulars may be seen by consulting our advertising columns. We commend the Secretary's appeal which appears in this issue for a United effort to make this service a complete success. It is by now an Annual Demonstration. It will be seen that the laymen have secured the services of the Rev. Lawrence Clare, of Birmingham, a prominent exponent of the religious principles for which our Non-Subscribing Churches stand. Our people have now for several years loyally supported this United Service by gathering in numbers from town and country. We doubt not that the same encouragement will be extended on November 21st, to the Laymen in their laudible endeavour to spread the principles of religion among the discerning and thoughtful public. In as much as we have no reason to be ashamed of our principles in view of the intellectual movements in the religious world of to-day, it is incumbent on us all to do what we can to spread a knowledge of true religion among the general public. We are convinced that the application of practical christianity—the love that never faileth—alone can allay the unrest which is so apparent in the economic, social, political and religious world at the present time.

Ministers' Pensions and Insurance Fund.

We understand that copies of an appeal under this heading have gone forth to the members of our churches calling attention to the great effort that has been made, and so far very successfully made, to raise a sum of £20,000 as a fund for aged Ministers and Widows, and in support of the contributory insurance of ministers. The members of the Churches which form the National Conference fixed the figure aimed at, at £20,000. The churches in Great Britain have succeeded in raising £19,391 1s. 4d. already. The General Purposes Committee of our Non-Subscribing Church feel that our Church should not be behind hand in this important matter, and have issued a circular to be distributed among the members of our Irish Churches, together with a list of contributions already received or promised. We print in this issue the appeal to our local churches signed by well-known and representative men, and sincerely trust that a widespread response from our members will be the result. We need not enlarge on the usefulness of such a fund. We may say, however, that the placing of aged and devoted ministers in the evening of their day when their lives' work is done beyond the reach of poverty is an object which no christian church should leave undone ; and the successful launching of a contributory insurance scheme for ministers is equally important, which will in the future make for the efficiency of the ministry and the lasting gain of our whole church connection. The Rev. H. J. Rossington is the Honorary Treasurer for our churches to whom all contributions should be sent, at Ardeevin, Cadogan Park, Belfast. He gives twice who gives quickly. It is very desirable that the fund should be closed by next Christmas.

The Coal Situation.

The coal crisis is still dragging its weary length, and, at the time of writing, the end

is not in sight. The situation continues to be in a state of suspended animation, but there has always been more suspense than animation in the business. The parties immediately concerned have their points of view which they have pressed to the limits of endurance. The government are, and have been prepared to foster a reapproachment between masters and workers whenever a basis of agreement can be found, but so far without success. There is, however, a fourth party deeply involved in the crisis. The interests of the general public and industry, if not exactly lost sight of, are, at least, not sufficiently considered. The consequences are tragic. The nation is suffering economic loss of a serious nature. Winter is come. Firegrates have become emptier and emptier as the dispute is protracted, and the cold, as it becomes severe, will cause the people to suffer hardships. The miners under stern necessity are returning to work in greater numbers, and it is to be hoped that a settlement of the dispute on an economic basis, satisfactory to both parties, will be the final outcome. All well-disposed people, while not fully understanding the merits of the dispute, will pray for a just and lasting settlement and an economic peace that the trade of the country may have a breathing space to recover its losses, and so win back its way to more prosperous times. With goodwill a period of sanity and mutual understanding should not be insuperable.

Laymen's League.

Ulster Hall Service.

Will our friends in Belfast and country specially note the date for the Ulster Hall United Service on 21st November next. We want to make a big effort to have a crowded meeting and confidently hope our friends will turn up in force.

There is need in face of the theological unrest in our community at present that the Gospel of the Liberal Faith should be widely proclaimed and our message for those seeking light and truth boldly set forth. The preacher, Rev. Lawrence Clare, of Birmingham, is one of the most earnest and forceful of our ministers and commands a wide audience in the English Midlands. Special music has been arranged and the efficient and popular Organist of the "First Church," Mr. Albert Taylor will preside at the organ. This is an occasion also when our friends and co-religionists from all over Northern Ireland can foregather and exchange ideas and greetings. So please do not forget to roll up in all your strength and let us have another memorable gathering.

Ministers' Pension and Insurance Fund

The following circular letter has been forwarded for distribution among the members of our Churches.

Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland.

Ministers' Pension and Insurance Fund : Contributory Insurance Scheme.

September, 1926.

Dear Sir or Madam,

We ask your sympathetic attention to the enclosed Appeal, and trust you will see your way to make to it as generous a contribution as possible. Contributions may be extended over three or more years if preferred.

The Appeal for this Fund was launched at the National Conference held in Sheffield last April, and since then there has been a generous and widespread response, as is shown by the enclosed list of subscribers. It is essential that the full amount necessary, viz., £20,000, should be raised by the end of the present year. So far, no attempt has been made to canvass persons in the North of Ireland, though they will wish to contribute, seeing that the benefit forthcoming is just as great for our Non-Subscribing Church of Ireland as for any other area. Already a number of our Congregations have approved of the new Scheme, and their Ministers will stand to benefit by its operations. It is hoped that all will ultimately participate therein, but this will only be possible by the obtaining of the whole amount. We feel assured that our generous laity will see to it that our Irish community does not lag behind in the splendid effort now being made to insure its future and that of its Ministers.

Subscriptions may be sent to Rev. H. J. Rossington, M.A., B.D., Ardeevin, Cadogan Park, Belfast, who has been asked to act as Treasurer on behalf of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland.

EDGAR LOCKETT, Moderator.
HERBERT J. ROSSINGTON, Hon. Treasurer.
GEO. J. SLIPPER, Clerk.
JOHN CAMPBELL.

Correspondence.

Letters and manuscripts for the Editor should be sent to The Manse, Killinchy, Co. Down, not later than the 16th of each month. The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents. Letters cannot be inserted without the name and address of the sender.

The Future of the Depository.

To The Editor, N.S. Presbyterian.

Sir,

The Ulster Unitarian Christian Association have now a fresh agent at 35 Rosemary Street. Another chapter has opened in the history of the institution.

The future of the Depository rests with you who read these words. If every Unitarian and Non-Subscribing Presbyterian made a point of getting supplies of books, periodicals, stationery, etc., through this agency, the hope expressed above would be amply fulfilled, and would do away with these appeals for money which have become a regular feature in the Associations' Annual Reports. Subscriptions! Fancy any commercial undertaking having to appeal for subscriptions to enable it to carry on. A shop should be a financial success or it should close. And if all our people—the doctors, lawyers, architects, school teachers among us, not to mention ordinary novel readers, and commercial men with their constant demand for account books and office stationery—were to get their requirements at the one and only denominational shop, there is no reason why it should not become a sound paying proposition. Unfortunately our people are not built that way. We are too "liberal" to support denominational efforts. I remember a conversation with the wife of one of our leading Belfast Laymen, who said she had tried her best to get a certain novel in Belfast and finally wrote direct to the publishers. Did she make inquiries at the Depository? She did not. And this is quite typical. Many a time I have heard our people tell how they tried other bookshops first and the Depository as a last resource, a procedure which surely ought to have been reversed.

If the Depository is worth keeping open it is worth supporting and the general public can hardly be expected to deal there. Not being in agreement with our theological position why should they contribute, however indirectly, towards propagating our views? Besides, to some of them at least, the Depository is a closed corporation. I have been asked on occasions whether the general public were "allowed into" the place!

There was a time when quite a flourishing business was carried on at the Depository, and it might be so again if our people were only just a little more thoughtful.

Nadie.

Students for the Ministry.

To The Editor N.S. Presbyterian.

Dear Sir,

In your last two issues there has been considerable discussion concerning the need for Irish students for our ministry. Not withstanding the fact that Irish students in the past have been given ample proof of the truth of the proverb concerning a prophet in his own country, and that even yet the distance which candidates for our vacant pulpits travel seems to lend enchantment to their views in the eyes of our people, it is absolutely essential that students should be forthcoming.

Now pious hopes have long been expressed on this matter and moving appeals to parents have been sent forth from time to time. But might I ask through your columns what has been done. I am moved to ask this because since your last issue as your readers may have seen from the public Press the Presbyterian Church have moved in the matter to such an extent that they have been able to inform their people that any boy if suitable, however poor his parents may be, will be able to enter their ministry; a ministry in itself, offering one might think, sufficient inducements to parents and young men.

Whatever may be said, the bare fact remains that it is at the moment utterly impossible for such a boy to take the full graduate course for our ministry even under the revised rules for students about which very few of our ministers seem to know anything and our people much less. Yet we have not even the necessity to raise funds, the funds are there. The amazing thing being that even to propose to do what our brethren in the orthodox church have done draws a storm of criticism. Suggestions that the position of the ministry should be improved to make it attractive to young

men are approved. Any suggestion to improve students' bursaries is denounced as almost immoral. The fact still remains that whereas in pre-war times the poorest student could enter the ministry he cannot do so to-day unless of course he goes to England or receives a grant from one of our English Colleges for undergraduate work. The best ministers have come from those very homes from which to-day a boy cannot enter the ministry however keen he may be to do so, unless by any other road than the one which ought to be most easily open to him. A boy of 16 will with matriculation require 7 years study at the University with residence in Belfast, during the 9 months of each year. Should he desire to follow that course he can only be helped by contravention of our present rules and in opposition to some who consider that rules which they themselves have made should be as unalterable as the laws of the Medes and Persians and though ultimately the student may be quite well treated he will not have had to wait till he might seek a pulpit, to get the impression that others desire him more than his own. Let us above all, seeing that the money is there, make our rules for students such that each minister may be able to say to the parents of our boys that he can promise the church's support till the course is done. At present no minister can do other than hint and hope and vaguely suggest that help is there for a suitable boy. The Ulster temperament is too practical to be moved by such exhortation. When we stop "appealing" and do something to get students and when what we are prepared to do is known in the homes of our people, students will come. Those who are so keen to insist on the sacrifices a boy should make ought to be satisfied that the sacrifice will still be great enough.

A. L. AGNEW.

Sermon.

From the Carpenter to the Christ.

Sermon by the Rev. John Barron of Ballyhemlin.

Is not this the carpenter?—Mark 6 : 3.
Is not this the Christ?—John 4 : 29.

Two questions concerning Jesus, the first asked in Galilee, the second in Samaria. Palestine had three provinces; Ireland has four. Palestine is about the size of Ulster, its provinces are Galilee, Samaria, Judea. To get from the Northern Province to the Southern, it was necessary to pass through Samaria. The people of Galilee in the North, were attached to the religion of Judea in the South, and their centre of worship was Jerusalem. The Samaritans had a temple on Mount Gerizim; but, at the time of Jesus it must have been in ruins as it is to-day. War swept over the land and laid the Samaritan temple in ruins, and it was not built up again. The ruins however indicate very fine buildings. The ritual in both centres of worship was the same, the priests in both cases made the same claims as to their succession. Within a century or so after Christ, the Jews were prohibited worshipping in their temple or indeed approaching Jerusalem. Through all changes in history, the Samaritans continue their ancient form of worship, even to this day. Though few in numbers, they maintain they are God's chosen people, that the Jews are outside the Covenant, are only dissenters. The Samaritans accept only the Five Books of Moses, as the Word of God, and all the rest that the Jews accept, all the rest of the Old Testament, they regard as of nothing worth. Travellers tell us that is still the case to-day, that it has always been so. Naturally, there was intense hatred between Jews and Samaritans. The Jews who make such proud claims for themselves, do not like those claims to be set at nought. People can get very hot over politics; but, apart from politics, they are frequently good friends; but, let religion get behind a man's hatred, then as Henry Ward Beecher said, "it is the very devil." People on their way from Galilee to Jerusalem, at the times of the great religious festivals received scant courtesy; when their faces were in the other direction, homeward, they might receive more civility.

In Galilee, villages had their carpenters' shops and their synagogues. The carpenter's shop would be a place where from far and near man would call on business or occasionally to get the news. Jesus as an apprentice and perhaps successor to Joseph would be well-known, and undoubtedly well-liked. Apparently, nothing very extraordinary about him, a child that grew and waxed strong in wisdom and stature. No suggestion of any belief or rumour that He was a miraculous being. His own mother with the rest of the family thought He had gone mad when He began to preach. That doesn't look as though she or they, regarded Him as a miraculous being.

When as a man of thirty, Jesus appears in the pulpit of His own synagogue, at first he wasn't recognised. His whole being had changed, His voice, His attitude, the force of His words—no fear, no hesitation, clear, distinct, penetrating. The congregation was startled. Who is it? Is not this the carpenter? What accounted for the change? Mark and John begin the story of Christ's life, with the Baptism. That is not accidental. Orthodoxy of to-day is not the same thing as it always has been, as it was in the beginning. One of the old lines of tradition coming through a church now exterminated, by the persecution of those who considered it heretical, although its continuity of teaching was older than theirs, taught that at the Baptism, when the Spirit descended on Jesus, then He became the Son of God. "Until then, He had been only as a good man, or as one of the prophets; then became He the Saviour of us sinners,"—and very much more. A section of the Gnostics went further and thought that a great being, the Christ, came forth from the heavenly places, and descended and took possession of the body of Jesus, that the body changed tenants. Whatever the reason, there was a change. The congregation of the synagogue rushed Him out of the building, and would have killed Him. His own family considered Him mad. That is what they thought of Him in Galilee.

How different the reception among the out-caste Samaritans. The woman at the well in Samaria, didn't think Him mad. All her life she had known of pilgrims passing to and fro in her country, looking askance at Gerizim and its ruined Temples as though it were the House of Satan. Catholics and Protestants simply aren't in it, compared with the bitterness of the controversy which raged about "this mountain or Jerusalem." Perhaps she often wondered, what it was all about, who was right and who was wrong. Among her string of husbands, she may have had two or three, who were zealous for Gerezim and hated Zion. Who was right and who was wrong?

A Jew, not in the least fanatical, gentle, courteous, kind, had quietly talked to her, and five minutes conversation with Him had made her a new creature. "Woman believe me the hour cometh and now is, when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem, shall ye worship the Father. God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth." She had come to draw water, she had had a draught of the living water, of the spiritual truth for which the heart yearns. Do you need to be told that spring water is cool, the sun is bright, keen air is bracing? You know it for yourself, and she recognised the Christ, as Peter had done. What is intuition? The power in us to recognise truth as truth. She had no doubt; "Is not this the Christ?" That is the only real test, not argument, or Lo, here! or Lo, there! His mother thought Him mad, the woman of Samaria proclaimed Him the Christ.

Amen.

Temperance Notes.

"Punch" and Liquor Advertisements.

It has been announced (we gleaned this first from "The Inquirer") that from March next, the management of "Punch" will refuse advertisements of alcoholic liquor. These advertisements, often full-paged, have been very prominent, and as works of art, well up to the standard of our premier humorous weekly. Already these advertisements are absent from its pages. Personally, we look upon this as a 'forward movement' and as a sign of the times.

"The Spectator" has for some time past adopted this policy. It seems to indicate a growing consciousness that alcoholic drink is a thing apart calling for special precautions. We certainly congratulate both proprietors on their courage, whatever the actual motive, or motives, and remember that both publications are in the front rank of British journals.

Decrease in Drunkenness.

Here is another sign of the times. England appears to be more sober, for there is reported a decrease in the number of convictions for drunkenness. We garner the figures from the licensing statistics just issued from the Home Office.

The total number of convictions for drunkenness in England and Wales for last year was 75,077. This is a decrease of 4,005 (or 5.1 per cent.) as compared with the preceding year. The total reached a lower level than any year since 1919.

We also read that the convictions for drunkenness due to the drinking of methylated spirit decreased from 693 in 1924 to 444 last year.

Unhappily we have to remember that these figures are not the totals for drunken-

ness, but convictions for drunkenness—which is quite another matter. I believe it is not a crime, to get drunk, provided that at the same time you are not disorderly or creating a disturbance.

But there is developing, very perceptibly, a growing general feeling of disgust at the sight of a drunken person in our streets. I believe our Bands of Hope, especially of the last generation, have much to do with this growing feeling. Undoubtedly a social conscience is awaking, and our imagination is being stirred, and the sight of an intoxicated person conjures up in our minds, somewhere a home of tragedy.

We can't afford it.

" Perhaps the best way to bring home the magnitude of the economic drink evil is to consider a particular town like Leicester " (said Dr. Rattray, Principal, University College, Leicester). " The drink bill for Leicester is over £30,000 per **week.** This represents a rate of over 23/- in the £. The profit on a whole **year's** sale of gas was equalled by the drink bill of a **week.** The total **receipts** of the tramways are spent every nine weeks, a **year's profit** in less than one week. The drink bill for seven years equalled the total capital expenditure of Leicester up to 1924 on all its gas, electricity, trams, corporation buildings, libraries, museums, parks, bridges, school buildings."

" Suppose," Dr. Rattray said, " the money spent on drink were spent on things that build up life, like houses, food, clothing, Is it exaggeration to say that it would transform the face of society ? "

Our Responsibility.

Dr. Rattray concluded the address from which the previous words were taken, as follows :—

" Everyone knows of the loss of efficiency and risk to life caused by alocholic drink ; it was scientifically proved by men like Sherrington, M'Dougall and Cushony. When we consider (1) the wealth **lost** through alcoholic drink ; (2) the wealth that could be produced **in addition** but for alcoholic drink, we have an argument that requires some meeting. When in addition to all this we consider the human misery, due not only to the poverty caused by alcoholic drink, but also to the other effects of alcohol, can a moral, let alone a religious person, evade the responsibility ? Self-sacrifice is commonly preached and applauded, but if people preach self-sacrifice whilst not willing to give up a luxurious indulgence and thereby do their bit in one of the greatest reforms of humanity—what they **are** speaks so loudly that it is difficult to hear what they say." P. G.

Non-subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland.

Bangor Congregation

SERVICE EACH SUNDAY EVENING

At 7 o'clock,

IN

Thompson's Tea Rooms, Main St.

(OPPOSITE POST OFFICE)

Minister : Rev. A. Whitford, Moneyrea.

Hon, Treasurer :
Mr. T. LILLIE,
6 Bingham St., Bangor.

Hon. Secretary :
Mr. GEORGE HILL,
45 Ballyholme Esplanade.

Eucharist.

Following upon harvest thanksgiving comes another form of thanksgiving. In one of our churches, at least, the Lord's Supper was celebrated on the harvest-thanksgiving day and amid the decorations was seen the table covered with a white cloth, and the presence of the sacred elements thereon, indicated by the linen which covered them. It was an appropriate time, because it emphasised the thanksgiving aspect of the Sacrament.

"No sacraments, no church" is a Catholic saying. With the Catholic the Sacraments take the first place, with most Protestant Dissenters preaching takes the first place. No doubt, it is quite right that such should be the case. Whether the Sacraments or teaching is given priority depends upon the type of people to be ministered to, and the line of development, which temperamentally is theirs. One line is that of the emotions, the other is that of intellect. With beauty of colour, of fragrance, of stately ritual, with centuries of usage behind it, the imagination and emotions are at once gripped, and from that as the starting point appeal is made to the intellect. To those on the other line the appeal to intellect is first made. Often little heed is paid to outer adornment, and the worship may be conducted in severe simplicity of form, but, doctrine takes a foremost place, and that has to be argued for, and then in the application the feelings are roused. Be that as it may, have we to argue and debate everything that comes in our way every day? Is there to be no room for faith? Is there nothing in ordinary life, that we do "in remembrance"?

However, it is not for us to concern ourselves with what other people do. Two lads, thousands of miles away from their home, told the writer, one had promised his father always to go to Communion at least once a month, and the other had promised his mother into whatsoever country he went, to go to a church of the religion of that country. What does it mean to those two? Always a restraining influence. "In Remembrance." Ah, yes! remembrance of home, remembrance of the Great Master, the Supreme Teacher of the World. Well, for them also, that it should be also a thanksgiving. "He saveth thy life from destruction." It is something to be thankful for, to be saved from wasting one's life. Everything of gloom, of depression should be banished from the ordinance. It should be like a visit to Bethlehem, to the House of Bread. "O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!" ULLIN.

"An Incorrigible Beggar."

AS G.B.S. SEES IRELAND.

Mr. Shaw has shocked the American friends of Ireland. Asked to support an appeal to send shoes and clothing to poor Irish children, he has written this reply:

"My advice to America is not to send a single cent to Ireland ever again—shoes or anything else. Ireland is perfectly able to feed and clothe her own children if she chooses. It is a mistake to suppose that she is poor: she is only an incorrigible beggar. She persuades you that except for the corner of Ulster she is penniless; do not believe her.

"The trade of the Irish Catholics in the South in butter, cattle and agriculture represents far more money than the shipyards and mills of Belfast. Co-operation can develop this agricultural industry by leaps and bounds.

"Ireland can afford good boots and woollen stockings for every one of her children, and if she is a bad mother, and prefers to leave her children barefooted and hungry while she is enjoying herself at hunt meetings, regattas, horseshows, and the routine of sport and fashion generally, I do not see why America should encourage her."

If any American is inclined to feel self-righteous, Mr. Shaw's next paragraph should cure him. He says:

"America does the same thing, and worse. For the poor little slaves in the cotton mills of Carolina I am prepared to solicit not socks and shoes, but fire from heaven. If Americans want to rescue children from poverty and slavery they had better look at home."

The Business Agent, Rev. G. J. Slipper, acknowledges with thanks the following subscriptions towards the Extinction of Debt on the NON-SUBSCRIBING PRESBYTERIAN, as follows:—

Subscriptions already acknowledged	£23	13	0
Since received—			
Miss Nelson, 4 Edenmore Terrace, Larne ..	0	10	0
Unity Guild, Collection at Annual Service, per Mr. W. M'Cafferty	1	14	9
"Holywood Friend." ..	0	10	0

Reports.

Unity Guild.—The Annual Service was held in All Soul's Church on Sunday, September 26th. The service was conducted by the President of the Guild (Rev. S. P. Whitehouse). There was an excellent attendance and Mr. Whitehouse gave a very helpful address. The opening night was held on Wednesday, October 13th, at Rosemary Hall, there were over 200 present the guests being received by the President. After tea a competition was held, cards illustrating the titles of songs being worn. Miss Eileen Miller won the ladies' prize and Mr. J. M'Bride, the gentleman's. From 9 o'clock until 10-30 there was dancing, the music being supplied by Mrs. Neuman, Mr. Bertie Miller, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Lockett. Everyone agreed that a most enjoyable evening had been spent.

Belfast.—YORK STREET.—The Third Anniversary of the re-opening of the Church and the ordination of our present minister was marked by a special service held in the Ulster Hall on Sunday, 12th September at 7 p.m. It was said to be the largest religious service ever held in the building over two thousand being present when the authorities compelled us to close the doors and amongst the hundreds turned away were unfortunately, several contingents from our country churches. Many of these were however entertained with others in the Church Hall where tea was served to several hundred visitors during the course of the day. We desire to take this opportunity of expressing our regret to those who were disappointed after travelling to attend the service, also our thanks to the many in town and country who helped to make the event memorable not only in the history of York Street, but of our denomination. Speaking at a late hour in the evening in the Church Hall to a band of tired but happy workers the Minister said that perhaps the greatest result of that day was to prove what might be done by the loyal co-operation and self-sacrifice of a small number of people labouring without assistance in an unpopular cause. A few of them remembered the state of the Congregation three short years ago and what had been done that day would be an encouragement and inspiration to their struggling churches everywhere. The suggestion that several further services of this kind might be attempted during the winter is being considered. During the summer months the Church Hall has been lavishly renovated in preparation for the meetings of the Guild during the winter.

The opening meeting of the Church Guild was held on Saturday, 25th September. We were honoured by the presence of Sir John and Lady Campbell. There was a very large attendance. After tea, Sir John on behalf of the congregation, presented the Minister with a portrait which was hung in the Hall amidst applause. He then congratulated the Members of the Church on the progress made since he had last spoken in that building and proceeded to give a short but interesting address on "Reasons for Non-Subscription," during the course of which he referred to the lack of the spirit of self-sacrifice shown by the miners and their leaders at the present time, but apparently considered the need for the same spirit to be shown by others in the same dispute to be so obvious that he did not mention it. A hearty vote of thanks was then accorded to Sir John and Lady Campbell. The meeting continued with games and dancing till a late hour. Mr. Francis Joseph Bigger, M.A., was announced as the next speaker. There was an attendance of four hundred at evening worship on Sunday 26th and twenty new members joined the Church.

Holywood.—Through the generosity of Mr. W. Patterson, the Sunday School children enjoyed a great treat on Saturday, September 18th, when they were given an outing to Bangor, a tea and other good things. At mid-day they assembled at the church, and were conveyed by bus—a merry, boisterous company—to Ballyholme, where on the greensward, by the sea, and in the sunshine, they had the best of good times. The weather, fortunately, was "ideal," and the youngsters enjoyed swings, roundabouts, and other games. Sports were also organised, for which the prizes were kindly provided by Mrs. Sharman D. Neill. The party was in charge of Mrs. F. A. Robinson and Mr. W. J. Harvey (who were responsible for the excellent arrangements), and Miss B. Patty, Mr. and Mrs. Lockett were also present, and several of the parents joined the party during the afternoon. At five o'clock an excellent tea was served at Nardini's Restaurant near by, and was done full justice to by all concerned. Shortly after eight o'clock the bus arrived for the journey home. Some of the little ones were tired by this time, but all were very happy

and quite unanimous in hoping for a like good time next year. The Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held on Sunday and Monday, October 24th and 25th. The interior of the church was as usual, beautifully decorated by ladies of the congregation, and special music was rendered by an augmented choir under the direction of Mr. W. J. Harvey (Organist). The Services on Sunday morning and evening were conducted by Rev. W. H. Townley Tilson, M,A., of Greyabbey, who preached appropriate sermons which were much appreciated. There were large congregations, in the evening the building was crowded, and in the afternoon the scholars of the Sunday School had their own Harvest Thanksgiving Service. This was kindly conducted by Mrs. Edgar Jackson, of our Mountpottinger Congregation who gave an interesting address to the children. On Monday evening a musical service was given by the Choir, assisted by singers from other churches, Mr. M'Bratney, the well known Belfast Organist, presiding at the organ. The piece selected was the Harvest Cantata, "The Rolling Seasons." A brief address was given by the minister (Rev. Edgar Lockett). After the service refreshments were provided in the schoolroom for the visiting singers and thanks are due to those who gave the good things and those who so willing by gave of their time and labour.

Ballyhemlin.—The Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday, 3rd October, was very successful. The Meeting-house was filled, and the large number of motor-cars and bicycles outside the building, indicated the great distance that some of the visitors had come. The recent renovation made an attractive background to the decorations which showed great skill and taste on the part of the workers. The preacher was the Rev. John Barron, whose subject was, "White, unto Harvest." An appeal for further funds was made, for although the Meeting-house has had much-needed renovation, other property also requires putting into repair, and that is not done without money. The singing went exceedingly well, and Miss M'Master of the Post Office, Ballyhalbert again gave her services as organist.

Clough.—The Harvest Thanksgiving services were held on Friday evening and Sunday September 17th and 19th. The meeting-house was beautifully decorated for the occasion by the ladies. Gifts of flowers, fruit, corn and vegetables were amply supplied by the members and a magnificent collection of plants and flowers was as usual kindly sent by George Allen, Esq., Mount panther. The Rev. J. J. Magill, B.A., Rademon, officiated on Friday evening and he delivered a very thoughtful and appropriate sermon. The solist was Mrs. Moffett, Farranfad, who gave an impressive rendering of the aria, "O, rest in the Lord." On Sunday, the Rev. M. Watkins, Belfast, conducted the services, morning and evening, and his discourses were highly appreciated. The soloist was Miss Rainey, Belfast, whose beautiful voice was heard to advantage in "God's Garden," and "Nearer my God to Thee." All three services were well attended and the singing of the well-known harvest-hymns was hearty and inspiring. Much of the success of the services was due to Miss J. Donnan, who ably presided at the organ and the choir. The silver collection on Sunday evening was in aid of the Infirmary, Downpatrick.

Crumlin.—The Presbytery of Templepatrick, in accordance with a recent decision to hold its meetings in the constituent Churches, visited Crumlin on September 27th. In addition to ministers and Elders representing all the congregations with the exception of Glenarm, there were also present several members of the congregation. Preceding the business of Presbytery, devotions were conducted and an address was given by the Moderator, Rev. S. E. Bowen, and the hymns were accompanied on the organ by Miss Manderson. We were pleased to see present, Mr. John M'Cleery of Raloo, who in the near future hopes to come under the care of the Presbytery as a student for the Ministry. After the meeting all present assembled in the School-room where tea was served by Mrs. Bowen and lady members of the congregation.

The Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held morning and evening on Sunday, October 3rd. The morning service was conducted by Rev. S. E. Bowen, 'pastor loci,' and the praise was led by Miss Logan, Organist. In the evening, in spite of the fact that ours was one of four similar services held locally that day every seat in the body of the church was occupied and the gallery which is not usually used on such occasions was also partly filled. Rev. A. Turner conducted the service and his address was timely and impressive. The

singing of the Harvest Hymns was unusally hearty and two solos "Nearer My God to Thee," and "Abide with Me," were most acceptably rendered by Mrs. Moore, A.L.C.M. who was accompanied by Miss Getty of Templepatrick.

Downpatrick.—More than usually good congregations were attracted by the harvest festival in Downpatrick First Presbyterian Church on Sunday. Rev. Victor A. Callow, of Manchester, preached in the morning on 'The Corn of Heaven,' from Psalm lxxviii., 23, 25, and in the evening on 'The Burning Bush,' from Exodus iii., 2. The old church was most tastefully adorned with corn, wheat, flowers, fruit, and foliage in abundance, and the general effect was most restful and pleasing—a tribute to the refined taste of the ladies who did the work. The soloist at both services was Miss Gertrude M'Murray, who rendered 'My Task,' with faultless enunciation and with much acceptance. The choir was under the direction of Mr. Ernest Naylor. Hearty thanks are due to the many kind friends who sent gifts for the decorations, and also to those who assisted in the praise.

Glenarm.—Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held here on Sunday, 26th September, at 4 o'clock, and also on Monday evening at 7-30 p.m. The preacher on Sunday was the Rev. J. A. Miskimmin, B.A., (pastor loci), and on Monday evening the service was conducted by the Rev. John Begg, Larne, who delivered an eloquent and practical discourse. Favoured by fine weather we had good attendances at both services, including many members of other denominations. Hymns appropriate to the occasion, and the anthem 'Lord of the Harvest Thee we Hail" were well rendered by an augmented choir. Miss Eva M'Mullan presided at the organ, and sang with much acceptance the solo, "Lead kindly light." The Meeting-house was tastefully decorated by the members of the congregation and presented an attractive appearance.

Killinchy.—Thanksgiving for the Harvest was celebrated on Sunday and Monday, September 26th and 27th in a series of three services. The preacher on Sunday was the minister who spoke at 12-15, on "Seeking and Finding," and at 6-30 on "Forget not all his benefits." Large attendances at both services testified to the popularity of the festival. Year by year we are able to record increased attendances at the Morning Service. It is a gratifying encouragement to the workers who co-operate to make the celebration attractive. The Evening Service is quite as popular as ever, there being this year a very full and attentive congregation. The Monday Evening Service was conducted by Mr. J. A. Williams, B.A., of the Unitarian College, Manchester, who preached from Ps. civ., 27, a timely and apposite sermon, suitable to the occasion which was much appreciated. The Choir led the praise with appropriate Harvest Hymns, and rendered two anthems. "Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem," and 'The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." The decorations were composed of selections from the year's yield, grain being prominently displayed as well as other fruits. The beauty and variety of the flowers which came from all quarters were the subject of much comment. Special Quarterly collections were taken at all services on behalf of the Church Funds.

Larne and Kilwaughter.—Under the Chairmanship of the senior elder, Mr. S. Magill, a most enjoyable congregational social was held in the schoolroom of the Church on Friday, September 17th. Tea was excellently provided and served by the ladies of the congregation, and the important event of the evening was the presentation of a pulpit gown—the kindly gift of a lady member of the congregation—to the new minister, Rev. John Begg. The ceremony was performed by Mrs. J. Drummond and Mrs. S. Magill who, in a few chosen sentences expressed their good wishes to the minister, and their hope that he might long be spared to wear his robe of office among them. In his reply, returning thanks, Mr. Begg said he hoped he might be able to live up to the fine tradition of the Ministry in their Church. He had set himself to learn something of the men who had laboured there before him, and the more he had discovered of their character and position as ministers, the more evident it became that they were men of intellectual and spiritual worth and power. Nevertheless, as a Church, they were entering upon a new era, and that at a time when churches generally were regarded in a somewhat different light from that of our forefathers and church-going often a matter simply of whether we liked or not. Without criticising the modern attitude he felt that somehow ministers had to make the Churches indispensable to the people

—this was their task and this their hope. Mr. Begg concluded by expressing his confidence in the sympathy and response of the members of the Old Congregation to his labours among them.

It was a source of very great pleasure to all present to have in their midst their greatly respected and venerable senior minister, Rev. James Kennedy. He rose to say a few words, and in a short speech which was reminiscent of his fluent style and aptness of humour, he gave a formal kindly welcome to Mr. Begg and wished him God-speed in his labours. The programme of the Evening consisted of solos kindly rendered by Mrs. W. R. Drummond, Miss Laing, Miss Drummond, Mr. H. Hill, part songs by the choir, and pianoforte solos by Miss N. Pinkerton. With votes of thanks and the singing of the National Anthem the proceedings were brought to a close.

HARVEST THANSKGIVING.—On Sunday, September 26th the usual Harvest Services were held and splendid congregations attended both morning and evening. The Church was beautifully decorated with the flowers and fruits, and foliage of Autumn's bounty. Special music was rendered by the Choir, and our thanks are gladly tendered to all who gave gifts to adorn the Church for that day, and those who laboured so well to arrange them in such an appreciative manner.

Mountpottinger.—The Annual Meeting of the Women's League was held in the schoolroom on Monday, 11th October. At 8 p.m. a Service in the Church was ably conducted by Mrs. Slipper of Newry, Miss M'Calmont officiating at the organ. Tea was afterwards served to members in the schoolroom. The President, Mrs. Watkins took the chair at a successful business meeting which concluded the proceedings. The attendance scarcely came up to expectations.

Mountpottinger.—Harvest Services were held on Sunday, October 17th and were conducted by the Minister. Good congregations were seen at both services and it was generally agreed that the decorations had never looked better, the bountiful season having enabled friends to give freely of flowers and garden produce. The Choir rendered Anthems suitable for the occasion and at the evening service we were fortunate in having Mr. Sam Clarke, as Soloist. Members of the Women's League assisted by the Minister and certain members of the Church Committee were responsible for the decorations. We are under a debt of gratitude to some of the younger members of the Church Committee for their wholehearted efforts in conjunction with a member of the Congregation in the matter of carrying out certain much-needed renovation work in the building.

Newry.—The 12 o'clock noon and 6-30 p.m. services in the First Presbyterian (Unitarian) Church, Newry, on Sunday last were thanksgiving services for the blessings of harvest.

The Church was tastefully decorated for the occasion. There was a good attendance of the members of the congregation and visitors from other Protestant denominations at both services, particularly at the evening service. At the morning service, Mrs. Moore, of Ballyclare, who is blind, and the possessor of a cultured suprano, artistically rendered "How lovely are Thy Dwellings, Lord," and at the evening service she was listened to with great pleasure in delightful interpretations of "My Task," and "Beyond the Tomb." The well-known local tenor, Mr. Egerton Bond, also contributed a solo, "Let all the people praise Thee" (from Mander's Song of Thanksgiving) at the evening service. The various harvest hymns which were sung at both services were heartily rendered by the augmented choir, the congregation joining. Mrs. Slipper, wife of the minister of the congregation skillfully played all the accompaniment. The special preacher at both services was the Rev. Alfred Davison, of Dromore (whose pulpit was occupied by the Rev. Geo. J. Slipper) and his able and thoughtful sermons were appropriate to the occasion. The offertories were on behalf of Church Funds. At the concluding service last night an eloquent and impressive address was delivered by the Rev. A. L. Agnew, B.A., of the York Street Church, Belfast, to a large and representative congregation.

Stanhope Street Women's League.—The Stanhope Street Branch of the Women's League opened its winter session on October 4th, with a service in the Mission Church in the afternoon, conducted by Mrs. Glynne Davies, of Comber. A solo was acceptably rendered by a blind vocalist, Miss Nancy Kane, Mrs. L. Hay officiating at the organ. Tea was subsequently served in the Mission

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Hall, the hostesses being Miss Bruce and Miss Hutton, of The Farm. The tables were decorated with chrysanthemums and Michaelmas daises.

An Unedifying Spectacle.

The Vegetarian Society, which held its annual meeting at Manchester lately, has not been alone in protesting against the public roasting of an ox in connection with Manchester Civic Week. Other citizens were greatly perturbed when the condemned beast was paraded round the city in a cart bearing the notice: "This is the ox to be roasted at Belle Vue."

There was something pathetic in the patient animal's appearance in the cart, and his soft eyes turned on spectators with a look of inquiry, and the spectacle brought angry protest from many citizens actuated only by feelings of decency and not by vegetarianism.

The parade was wholeheartedly condemned in many quarters as reminiscent of the days when people were borne in carts to public execution.

N.B.—All communications should reach the Editor, The Manse, Killinchy, Co. Down, not later than the 16th of the Month preceding publication, but earlier when possible.

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